



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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PARK AND WILDLIFE LANDS, WESTERN WATER PROJECTS,
RESTORATION OF ABANDONED MINED LANDS HIGHLIGHT INTERIOR'S NEW BUDGET

Land acquisition for national parks and wildlife areas, construction funds for five "new start" Western water projects, and more funding for States to restore scarred, abandoned coal mine sites are highlights of the Interior Department's fiscal year 1985 budget request announced by Secretary of the Interior William Clark today.

In addition, the Park Restoration and Improvement Program would continue to improve facilities used by national park visitors; Indian tribes would receive boosts for economic development, and water rights settlements; and \$6 million is earmarked to study the effectiveness of methods to restore acid-damaged lakes and their fish populations.

Endangered species would receive additional help through recovery programs, research, and accelerated listing; the Accelerated Refuge Maintenance and Management program would be bolstered further; and added emphasis would be put on improved management of Federal and Indian oil and gas leases and the systems for managing royalties from them.

The Department's FY 1985 budget request of \$6.5 billion is approximately \$100 million less than the \$6.6 billion estimated for FY 1984.

National Park land acquisition is budgeted at \$100 million for FY 1985, a major increase over the \$54.7 million requested by the Administration in its FY 1984 budget a year ago and \$7.5 million more than appropriated by Congress.

No funding is proposed for grants-in-aid to States for park development or acquisition projects, but substantial amounts would go for helping to round out existing national park areas such as the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Big Cypress and Big Thicket National Preserves, Santa Monica Mountains and Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Areas, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and for Redwood National Park to relocate a major highway away from a scenic and heavily visited area of the park. Also, \$10 million is included to acquire privately owned tracts within the boundaries of older areas of the National Park System.

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In addition, Secretary Clark announced plans to continue the highly successful Park Restoration and Improvement Program (PRIP) begun in FY 1982 to upgrade and improve facilities used by national park visitors. The program has resulted in major improvements to water and sewer systems, public buildings, and park roads and trails. It has provided funding to perform urgently needed preservation work on important and often irreplaceable cultural and natural resources in the parks.

The 1985 budget requests \$257.3 million to continue PRIP, including \$100 million to come from the Highway Trust Fund for rehabilitation of park roads and bridges. Initially billed as a five-year, \$1 billion program, the 1985 budgeted amount would bring the four-year total for PRIP to \$994 million, virtually attaining the \$1 billion target a full year ahead of schedule.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which requested no money for land acquisition for FY 1984, seeks \$57.5 million for FY 1985 for land acquisition for refuges and wetlands, an increase of \$15.2 million over the amount appropriated by Congress for FY 1984. The entire \$57.5 million would come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, in three categories: \$30 million to acquire lands for wildlife refuges, with more than one-third of this acreage to protect endangered and threatened species; \$20 million for acquisition of important wetlands; and \$7.5 million to help states in wetlands acquisition. All this would be in addition to \$16 million for refuge and waterfowl production area acquisition authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission and funded with receipts from Federal "duck stamp" sales.

The boost in wetlands funding is particularly important in stemming the loss of wetlands. Wetlands provide the habitat essential for the breeding, spawning, nesting, migration, wintering and survival of a major portion of the Nation's migrating and resident fish and wildlife.

Overall, the Bureau of Reclamation's budget for FY 1985 would total \$1.09 billion, an increase of \$112 million over total estimated appropriations for the current fiscal year.

The five Bureau of Reclamation construction new starts to be funded in the FY 1985 budget are mostly for hydroelectric power projects. They include three projects expected to receive initial funding in FY 1984 supplemental appropriation measures. These are the enlargement of Buffalo Bill Dam and Powerplant in Wyoming; construction of power generating facilities at Headgate Rock Dam for the Colorado River Indian Reservation in Arizona; and the Santa Margarita Project to augment southern California water supplies including needed water supplies for the Marine Corps' base at Camp Pendleton. All three projects would receive continuing appropriations in FY 1985.

Two additional new starts would be funded beginning in 1985--the uprating of existing generators and construction of other facilities at Hoover Dam in southern Nevada, and the enlargement of Palisades Powerplant on the Snake River in southeastern Idaho.

Project beneficiaries will bear a part of the cost of proposed project developments, but their share will be worked out on a project-by-project basis, consistent with the policy recently announced by the President.

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Construction would continue at high levels of activity on such major ongoing projects as Central Arizona, Central Utah, Central Valley, Columbia Basin, and Dolores. The Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota would receive a boost for continued work on the Lonetree Dam and Reservoir, New Rockford Canal, Oakes Test Area and associated works. Another increase would be given the Brantley Project in New Mexico to begin construction of Brantley Dam.

The Reclamation General Investigations Program will continue to emphasize municipal and industrial water supplies, irrigation service, and water quality. Priority will be given to projects with high potential for development, strong local support, and high potential for non-Federal financial support. The FY 1985 program provides for nine new project investigations and six new advance planning studies.

The Administration is requesting \$105 million for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program (PILT) for payments to counties containing Federal lands. This will provide full funding under current statutes.

States and counties also are expected to receive \$662 million from Interior in FY 1985 as their statutory share of receipts from such sources as onshore mineral leasing, timber sales, and grazing fees within their borders. This would be \$105 million less than in FY 1984, when the States will be receiving their share of 17 months of Federal mineral leasing receipts in a one-time-only shift from semi-annual to monthly payments.

Overall, total receipts from the Interior Department's activities are estimated to exceed its requested budget authority by about \$4 billion in FY 1985. Receipts from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leasing (\$7.4 billion), from onshore mineral leasing (\$1.4 billion) and from other sources (\$1.5 billion) are expected to total \$10.3 billion. The FY 1985 OCS leasing receipts are expected to be about \$1.3 billion lower than in FY 1984, primarily because less leasing is scheduled in established producing areas, such as the Gulf of Mexico, than in 1984. Onshore mineral leasing receipts are expected to resume a gradual increase during FY 1984, and to rise above this year's totals by an additional \$100 million in FY 1985.

The FY 1985 budget for the Bureau of Indian Affairs continues to carry out the President's Indian policy to foster tribal self-government and promote economic development on reservations. The economic development program begun in FY 1983 has successfully attracted \$20 million in private capital with only \$5 million in Federal costs. The FY 1985 budget proposes to double the amount of Federal spending provided in FY 1984 to try to attract another \$30 to \$40 million in private sector financing to help develop Indian businesses. The economies of the Papago and Ak Chin communities in Arizona also would be boosted by funding for the construction of irrigation systems as part of their water rights settlements. The budget proposes supplemental funding of \$17 million in FY 1984 for the Ak Chin community and \$4.3 million in FY 1985 for the Papago Tribe.

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The Bureau's education program will continue to meet the needs of all students who desire to attend other Bureau schools or tribally contracted schools. During FY 1985 all remaining Bureau of Indian Affairs schools in Alaska would be transferred to the State of Alaska in keeping with the single education system envisioned in the State's Constitution.

The Office of Surface Mining is requesting \$291.7 million to reclaim abandoned mined lands, a net increase of \$20.5 million. Of this total, \$263 million would go to 23 coal mining States in non-matching grants (an increase of \$27.1 million over FY 1984). The increase recognizes the growing capabilities of the States to carry out needed restoration of the abandoned mines. This program is funded by a levy on every ton of coal produced, as mandated by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Revenues into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund are estimated at \$207.2 million in FY 1984 and \$218.6 million in FY 1985. The Department's policy is to draw down these monies as quickly as the coal States can effectively use the funds in their reclamation work.

The Bureau of Land Management's oil and gas leasing program would be funded in FY 1985 at \$43.2 million, an increase of \$6 million, primarily for increased inspection and enforcement activities on producing onshore leases. The Minerals Management Service royalty management program would receive \$39.9 million, a \$5 million increase, to improve the royalty compliance efforts and to continue acquisition of new Automatic Data Processing hardware.

The U.S. Geological Survey's Digital Cartography program would be increased by \$3.3 million to \$11.3 million in FY 1985 to provide for continued production of the data base required for the 1990 National Census.

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PRESS CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING INTERIOR'S FY 1985 BUDGET

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